

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claim 1 has been amended by adding the subject matter of claim 5, and claim 5 has been canceled. Claim 5 has been objected to, and is indicated as being allowable if written in independent form. Accordingly, claim 1 is now believed to be in condition for allowance.

The amendment of claim 1 reflects a desire to place the instant application in condition for allowance and does not represent an agreement with the Office's interpretation of the prior art or the application of that art to the claims.

Claim 4 has been amended to conform that claim to figure 12. Claim 3 has been amended to remove the word "step" to ensure that the claim is not construed as a "step-plus function" claim.

The remainder of the claims depend either directly or indirectly from claim 1 and thus are now believed to be in condition for allowance.

Applicant has made a diligent effort to place the instance application in condition for allowance. Accordingly, a notice of allowance for pending claims 1 through 4 and 6 through 9 is respectfully requested. If the examiner is of the opinion that the instant application is in condition for disposition other than through allowance, the examiner is respectfully requested to contact applicant's attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



Edward L. Pencoske
Reg. No. 29,688
Jones Day
One Mellon Bank
500 Grant Street, Suite 3100
Pittsburgh, PA, USA, 15219
(412) 394-9531
(412) 394-7959 (Fax)

Attorneys for Applicant